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ABSTRACT

This book focuses on book-banning in public schools and libraries, a practice that prohibits or restricts access to books already published, distributed, and even approved by school or library boards. The major grounds for censorship are sex, profanity, and religion, but they are often intertwined to cover a broad range of "unacceptable" attitudes or ideas. Chapter 1 analyzes eight major book-banning incidents from 1976 through 1992, and their cumulative impact on the issue of book censorship. Chapter 2 analyzes the modern court cases that compose the body of precedent concerning First Amendment rights in schools and libraries, revealing the evolving status of constitutional protection afforded to textbooks and library materials in public institutions. Chapter 3 presents the voices of some frequently banned authors, such as Judy Blume, Robert Cormier, and Katherine Petersen, and why their work is controversial. Chapter 4 surveys the 50 most-banned books in the 1990s and summarizes the challenges to them. The book contains appendixes on PAW's (People for the American Way) most frequently challenged books, materials, and authors, and states with the most challenges from 1982-1992. Finally, there is a selected bibliography that contains 24 references and an index. (DGM)

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